



## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES STUDY SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MAY 5, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Jim Pearman called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

**ROLL CALL:** Councilmembers Bruce Bassett, Mike Cero, Mike Grady (arrived 6:13 pm), Dan Grausz, Steve Litzow (arrived 6:02 pm), Deputy Mayor El Jahncke and Mayor Jim Pearman were present.

### STUDY SESSION:

(1) AB 4299 Island Crest Way/Merrimount Post Construction Analysis and Recommendations

Assistant City Engineer Anne Tonella-Howe presented the results of the trial installation at the intersection of Merrimount and Island Crest Way to the City Council. After the presentation and during discussion the Council gave unanimous direction that they do not support a traffic signal at this location. They requested that staff develop additional information for four options still under consideration: Option 1 – enhance the existing installation; Option 2 – install curb on the centerline of ICW at Merrimount and at SE 46th Street; Option 3b – install three-lane cross-section from SE 42nd Street to 86th Avenue; Option 3c – install three-lane cross-section from SE 42nd Street to SE 53rd Street. Staff will bring back additional information for further discussion by Council during the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) discussion on May 19th.

The Regular meeting reconvened at 7:13 pm. Mayor Pearman added an Executive Session to the end of the regular meeting to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 10 minutes.

### APPEARANCES:

Jason King, 4128 93rd Avenue SE, spoke in favor of the funding proposal for a Farmer's Market on Mercer Island and asked the Council to approve it.

Phil Flash, 3005 69th Avenue SE, thanked the Council for their support of him in receiving the Willard Jue Memorial Award by the Association of King County Historical Organizations for his work with the Mercer Island Historical Society.

Phil Boguch, 9 Maple Lane, spoke about the Island Crest Way/Merrimount intersection. He doesn't believe that the comments the consultants gathered are correct as more people spoke about the Island Crest Way and SE 44<sup>th</sup> Street intersection and the need to keep it open.

Mark Berejka, 8125 SE 79th Street, asked the Council to look at Option 3C as it will alleviate the issues of traffic flow during the morning and evening commutes. He also thinks that Option 3C has the potential to generate more social value with enhancing the roadsides.

Richard Tate, 3312 81st Place SE, expressed concern about the pedestrian crossing on Island Crest Way at SE 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. He believes it is dangerous because of traffic speeds, driver inattention and the close proximity to the freeway.

Callie Ridolfi, 3432 72nd Ave SE, spoke about the proposed grant for a fee waiver for the Farmer's Market on Mercer Island and many of the logistics IslandVision is working through to make the Farmer's Market possible. She also asked for additional funding for signage.

Bob Medved, 7238 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, stated that he supports the Farmer's Market on Mercer Island. He asked the Council to respond to the questions posed by Dr. Leibsohm at the April 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting regarding the First

Hill property and density housing on Mercer Island.

**MINUTES:**

- (2) It was moved by Deputy Mayor Jahncke; seconded by Councilmember Grady to:  
**Approve the Revised Study Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2008.**  
Motion passed 7-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Bassett; seconded by Councilmember Grady to:  
**Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2008.**  
Motion passed 7-0.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- (3) Payables: \$192,831.81          Payroll: \$575,465.83
- (4) AB 4297          Lakeview Highlands Sub-Basin 29 Stabilization Bid Award  
Recommendation: Award the Lakeview Highlands Sub-basin 29 Watercourse Stabilization Project to OMA Construction Inc. in the amount of \$ 695,532.38, set the total project budget at \$970,590 and direct staff to administer the construction contract.

It was moved by Councilmember Litzow; seconded by Councilmember Bassett to:  
**Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.**  
Motion passed 7-0.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

- (5) AB 4301          Farmer's Market Grant Request

Councilmember Bassett recused himself from the discussion on the Farmer's Market as he and his wife are actively involved in its start-up. City Attorney Katie Knight clarified that because his wife is on the board for the IslandVision, his participation in voting of the grant funding request could be considered a conflict of interest. She advised Councilmember Bassett that he can be part of the discussion but should not vote.

Communications Coordinator Joy Johnston explained that the Matching Grant Funding Assistance for IslandVision for a Farmer's Market is to help defray the costs of the permitting fees during the pilot 2008 market season. She also explained that staff recommends the granting of funds necessary to pay the fees as the City's fee ordinances do not have provisions that would allow the fee's to be waived.

It was moved by Councilmember Grausz; seconded by Councilmember Litzow to:  
**Appropriate \$16,300 from the Beautification Fund for IslandVision for a local grant to cover all City fees associated with its 2008 Farmers Market and for signage costs.**  
Motion passed 6-0 (Councilmember Bassett recused himself).

- (6) AB 4300          Tolling on Lake Washington Corridor Highways

State Representatives Judy Clibborn and Fred Jarrett, former Senator Jim Horn, former Transportation Commission Chair Aubrey Davis and Dept. of Transportation Urban Corridors Administrator David Dye convened as a panel to share their substantial experience, expertise and advice on matters relating to tolling in the Lake Washington transportation corridor.

The Council heard broad-ranging viewpoints on:

- the SR 520 bridge construction project schedule, cost and possible revenue sources, including toll revenues;
- the dual revenue-generation and congestion-management effects of tolling;

- the timing and amounts of possible SR 520 tolls and the consequent traffic diversion impacts;
- possible mitigations for when diversion affects access and mobility;
- the potential uses of toll revenue;
- the schedule and sequence of changes on the I-90 bridge (e.g. R8A lane additions and possible conversion of the center lanes to rail), and how tolling might fit into the schedule;
- the numerous committees, task forces and study groups that will be involved in debates over tolling.

The Council asked specific questions of panel members to focus the discussion on issues most relevant to Island citizens and their travel to and from the City. They concluded that the Council should work over the coming several months to prepare a statement of the City's interests, should speak as one voice for the Island, and should engage persistently in the ongoing regional discussions regarding tolling.

Mayor Pearman and Council members Litzow and Jahncke were identified as Council liaisons on tolling and diversion mitigation issues. Staff was directed to summarize the most significant points made during the panel discussion, to identify the key forums for Mercer Island to engage in ongoing regional discussions, and to work with Council liaisons to develop a plan for Council action.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Councilmember Absences:**

Councilmember Grady will be absent May 19.  
 Councilmember Grausz will be absent June 2 and June 16.  
 Councilmember Jahncke will be absent July 21.

**Planning Schedule:**

July 7<sup>th</sup>: Cable TV Operating Plan

**Board Appointments:**

There were no appointments.

**Councilmember Reports:**

Councilmember Litzow reported on taser demonstration at the Public Safety Sub-Committee meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Council adjourned to Executive Session at 10:02 pm to discuss potential litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 10 minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 10:44 pm

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 Jim Pearman, Mayor

Attest:

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 Allison Spietz, City Clerk